



**FSU-NEW LANDS:** In Russia, continued unseasonably warm, dry weather favored spring grain maturation and harvesting in Western Siberia, while late-week showers (13-42 mm) in northern Urals interrupted harvest activities. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 7 degrees C above normal in Western Siberia. At week's end, a hard freeze (minimum temperatures ranging from -3 to -5 degrees C) was observed at several locations in Eastern Siberia, ending the growing season. In Kazakhstan, continued warm, dry weather early in the week allowed spring grain harvesting to progress without delays. However, showers (10-30 mm) and cooler weather spread across Kazakhstan at week's end, causing some interruptions in harvest activities. In August, near- to above-normal precipitation fell in most spring grain areas, reversing July's unfavorably dry weather. Precipitation increased in both intensity and coverage during the month, improving growing conditions for spring grains in the filling stage. In Kazakhstan, hot, dry weather during the first half of August stressed spring grains in the filling stage and accelerated crops toward maturity. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, cotton harvesting was underway in most areas. Continued unseasonably warm, dry weather favored boll maturation and harvesting throughout the region.